

Revised Digital Forecast (RDF)
Product Description Document
6/05/03

Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Description of Product - The National Weather Service's (NWS) Revised Digital Forecast (RDF) product is an *optional* dynamic product displaying various forecasted weather parameters at 3-hour, 6-hour, and/or 12-hour intervals within a matrix format. When produced by a Weather Forecast Office, the RDF covers identical forecast areas contained in the valid ZFP, and reflects the latest expected weather conditions through Day 7.
- b. Purpose - Information in the RDF is provided to customers and partners as supplemental detail and/ or higher resolution detail than can be found in other standard NWS products. The RDF allows for rapid visual scanning of a large number of forecast parameters/ values. In addition, the forecast data is decodable by computers for those who wish to create derived products. Through the RDF product, the NWS strives to increase forecast resolution, improve communication with the public and hazards community, provide customers the information on which they can base their decisions, and increase forecast and warning accessibility.
- c. Intended Audience - The RDF is intended for use by large volume users of NWS forecast information, the emergency management community, and the general public.
- d. Presentation Method - The RDF is a segmented product composed of alphanumeric weather forecast characters in a quasi-static matrix format.
- e. Feedback Mechanism - We are always seeking to improve our products based on user feedback. An OMB approved form may be used to submit comments about this product. It is available on or within the web site containing the experimental product.

Technical comments for the Revised Digital Forecast product may be addressed to:
National Weather Service Headquarters
Attn: Revised Digital Forecast (RDF), OS22
1325 E-W Highway, SSMC2
Silver Spring, MD 20910

or e-mail comments to: ***Douglas.Young@noaa.gov***

Part II - Technical Description

- a. Format & Science Basis - The Revised Digital Forecast (RDF) product is composed of the format and content described in detail in National Weather Service Instruction 10-503. A morning example of an RDF segment is shown in Figure 1.
- b. Product Availability - The RDF is an event-driven product and may be issued at any time. However, at a minimum the RDF will be issued twice daily to remove the outdated first period of the forecast. These mandatory issuance times will occur no later than 4:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. local time. The RDF is available on the normal NWS dissemination circuits including the INTERNET.
- c. Other Details -
 - (1) Revised Digital Forecast Format will be terminated and renamed Area Forecast Matrices during 2003, become an operational product and included additional temporal resolution of elements.
 - (2) This product is created using the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) Interactive Forecast Preparation System (IFPS) software.
 - (3) Refer to NWSI 10-503, WFO Public Weather Forecast Products Specification for a technical description of the Area Forecast Matrices product (to be changed from Revised Digital Forecast (RDF) product.)

Figure 1. Revised Digital Forecast (Segment Example).